

PHILADELPHIA REACHES AGREEMENT FOR WASTEWATER SERVICES

WITH BUCKS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 5, 1988

On Friday, February 5, the City of Philadelphia and the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority signed an agreement modifying the method of payment for waste water treatment services provided to Bucks County at the Water Department's Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant (NEWPCP).

The new agreement provides for an initial capital contribution of \$12.273 million to reserve wastewater treatment capacity of 20 million gallons per day at the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant. This contribution is for the Authority's share of the current investment of that facility. The Authority will also pay its share of any future improvements to the Northeast Plant.

The previous agreement signed in 1982, is being replaced by one with a 35 year term. Annual billings under this new contract for the Authority's share of operations and maintenance expenses at the Northeast Plant and a ten percent management fee, will be \$2.6 million under the current rates. The City has the right to revise future rates whenever necessary.

$$\begin{array}{r} \$2,600,000 \\ \hline 20 \times 365 \text{ MBD} \end{array} = \$ .356 / 1000 \text{ GAL}$$

If the Authority should deliver more than the 20 MGD it has contracted for, the new agreement provides for exceedance charges. They have also agreed to install over 3 miles of sewer in the city to convey their wastewater to the treatment plant and relieve the demand on currently used sewers in the city. The cost of the new sewer will be borne by the Authority and is estimated at 5 million dollars.

In addition, the new contract provides that the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority adhere to the same stringent regulations concerning the quality of its wastewater which Philadelphia imposes upon its own industries. Through the Water Department's pre-treatment program, industrial wastes discharged to the City sewer system are monitored for compliance with environmental regulatory standards.

Philadelphia's \$900 million wastewater treatment plant modernization and expansion program was undertaken for two reasons. First, to meet the federal obligations outlined by the 1972 Clean Water Act but just as importantly, to address the problem of additional wastewater flows on a regional basis. Philadelphia's reserve capacity was planned to accommodate these additional flows from our suburban neighbors. Federal and state regulatory agencies agreed that it is more cost effective to solve the wastewater problem within the framework of regional cooperation.

Philadelphia's facilities currently serve over 2.3 million people within the City and surrounding counties in an area encompassing 279 square miles, approximately half of which are suburban. Fifteen automated pumping stations are integrated with an extensive gravity sewer system comprising 2,900 miles of combine sanitary and storm sewers. The Water Department's three pollution control plants have a combined capacity to treat 540 million gallons of wastewater daily.

Water Commissioner William J. Marrazzo commented after signing the new agreement, "Regional cooperation is the key to solving many of the environmental problems confronting southeastern Pennsylvania. We are happy to enter into this renewed partnership with the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority as a good example of one of these solutions.

Because the Philadelphia Water Department can provide a broad range of engineering, technical and administrative services which will insure improved wastewater services on a cost-effective basis, we are able to accomplish our goal of protecting our rivers and environment through high-quality treatment of wastewater."

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Joan Fredette

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